

Develop a Shared Understanding and Analytical Approach to Describe, Estimate, and Forecast Water Demands

As part of a Statewide Water Analysis Network (SWAN)¹, DWR is facilitating a pilot study to collaboratively develop a shared understanding and analytical approach to describe, estimate, and forecast water demands in California. For a successful pilot, we need the participation of water planners and subject matter experts from local, State and federal agencies and governments who can devote time or other resources. The pilot involves applying an iterative development process to reach common understanding of the important factors to estimate urban, agricultural, and environmental water demand.

How Will an Iterative Development Process be used in the Pilot?

DWR is promoting the use of an iterative development process used widely in the software development industry to assist with the development of a conceptual model of the water management system. This iterative approach is based on object-oriented thinking, and allows a team to identify and describe the relevant aspects of the real world that should be represented in an analytical tool. The conceptual model will be developed collaboratively to document the requirements of the system and a shared understanding of the water management system. DWR is documenting the products developed through the iterative process by using the Unified Modeling Language, which is a visual modeling language based on standard notation to describe systems in terms of objects, relationships, interactions, sequence diagrams, and state changes.

What are the Activities of the Pilot?

DWR will convene a work group drawn from interested SWAN participants which includes DWR staff. The work group will be responsible for developing a conceptual model of water demand in California by using an iterative development process facilitated by DWR. Work will be conducted in a series of half-day workshops.

How Will Results of the Pilot be used?

Results of the pilot study will be used to improve data collection and analytical procedures in support of the California Water Plan.

Who to Contact if Interested or for More Information?

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¹ See <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/swan/index.cfm> for the complete SWAN proposal.